

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, a local state of disaster for the City of Austin was declared by the City of Austin Mayor and the Travis County Judge, due to the public health crisis related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on Friday, March 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council passed Resolution 20200312-074, ratifying and extending the local state of disaster declaration indefinitely until such time as it is terminated by order of the Council; and

WHEREAS, the South by Southwest (SXSW) Festival is a home-grown event and cultural ecosystem that represents both the largest convention to take place in the City of Austin and a network of additional official and unofficial events across the city, which, according to a study conducted by Greyhill Advisors, generated an estimated \$346Million impact on our local economy in 2019; and

WHEREAS, while an international pandemic crisis necessarily requires intervention and support from state and federal agencies, SXSW represents a unique local event that requires special support and consideration by the City of Austin to address policy, resources and programming needs to help stabilize an integral system to our economy; and

WHEREAS, cancelling SXSW may result in continued and, in some cases, devastating financial losses for members of the Austin community, including service, music, and film workers, small and local businesses, and other; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the resiliency of our local economy and industries due to an unprecedented public health event is of great value to the City of Austin;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council of the City of Austin directs the City Manager to prioritize all necessary resources available to address the public health crisis and emergency declaration related to COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to develop programs to support Austinites that have been economically impacted by the public health crisis, including, but not limited to, the small and local businesses, musicians, and workers in the creative, hospitality, service, music, and film industries and other associated industries impacted by the COVID-19 related cancellation of major events, including, but not limited to the 2020 SXSW Festival.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to consider the following, but not limited to:

- Options that can help address short-term impacts while ensuring and maintaining the long-term success and sustainability of the local economy;
- Options that can help individuals and small and local businesses directly with financial assistance and continuity of service for utilities, housing, and other basic necessities;
- Reassess other uses of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) spending that are not currently assigned to active projects;
- Delayed payment plans for HOT collections;
- Where necessary, and in collaboration with Workforce Solutions, adjustments to existing economic development, job placement and workforce development program participation options in order to target those impacted by the current crisis and leverage other public resources;

- Where necessary, adjust program eligibility guidelines to target the current crisis;
- Explore third party facilitation of services to expedite administrative needs and services to the community;
- Consider waiving fees and delaying required payments from businesses who obtained special event permits;
- Consider contractual amendments where necessary; and
- Coordinating with regional jurisdictions whose residents and businesses will also suffer economic consequences from the SXSW cancellation and COVID-19 crises, especially where collaboration may advantage state and federal support.

All measures should aim to ensure that economic support provided by the City benefit Austin's businesses as well as Austin's workforce (i.e., ensuring city dollars can both sustain local businesses while also ensuring that employees are supported either through a continuing job with fair wages/benefits, access to hire-backs, or access to state and federal benefits)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to leverage all public and private options available at the local, state, and federal level to help address the larger economic issues of COVID-19 related impacts and closures including but not limited to:

- Options that can provide assistance (including financial) and supplies (including safety and medical) to persons and organizations who provide services to elderly individuals and persons with disabilities
- Providing economic aid for Austinites who do not receive sufficient support or are excluded by federal legislation related to the pandemic

ADOPTED: _____, 2019

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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